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Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* in Brazil

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Received 14 March 2005

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* has a near-circumpolar distribution in temperate waters of the Southern Hemisphere (Harrison 1983, Marchant & Higgins 1990). Its population is c.420,000 individuals (BirdLife International 2004), with *P. m. macroptera* breeding on Tristan da Cunha, Gough, Crozet, Marion, Prince Edward and Kerguelen islands, and off south-west Australia; and Grey-faced Petrel *P. m. gouldi* on mainland cliffs and offshore islands of North Island, New Zealand (Harrison 1983, Marchant & Higgins 1990). Tristan da Cunha birds appear to migrate to African waters for the non-breeding period, where Camphuysen & van der Meer (2000) found the species to be one of the most numerous off the Namibian shelf, in February 2000. The continental shelf of South America was not mentioned as being part of the species' non-breeding range (Harrison 1983), but there are scattered records for the Argentine Economic Exclusive Zone, the Falklands and South Georgia (see Mazar Barnett & Pearman 2001).



Figure 1. Specimen of Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* from southern Brazil, photographed prior to taxidermy (Leandro Bugoni)

The species was previously listed for Uruguay (Cuello 1975) and Brazil (Pinto 1938), but these records have subsequently been proven to be in error. Two specimens in the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP 11118, 13003) mentioned by Pinto (1938) proved to be Sooty Shearwaters *Puffinus griseus* (Escalante 1980, Teixeira *et al.* 1985), as I have also subsequently confirmed. The only other known records in Brazilian waters were the undocumented reports of Harris & Hansen (1974), who reported three between 20°S, 39°W and 24°S, 42°W on 11 September 1973, off Espírito Santo and Rio de Janeiro states, and three more at 30°S, 49°W, off Rio Grande do Sul, on 30 September 1973. The Uruguayan record in Cuello (1975), a specimen at the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Montevideo (MNHN 04142), in fact refers to Kerguelen Petrel *Lugensa (Pterodroma) brevirostris* (Escalante 1980).

Here a specimen from the Brazilian coast is reported, the first documented record for the south-west Atlantic north of Argentina. A female was found stranded on the beach near Albardão lighthouse, Rio Grande do Sul (33°09'S, 52°39'W), on 20 March 2004 (Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande bird collection 360). The specimen was identified as Great-winged Petrel, it being medium-sized, with a stubby, hook-tipped black bill and entirely blackish-brown plumage (Fig. 1). The identification was confirmed from measurements, which are within the range of

the species according to Serventy *et al.* (1971) and Marchant & Higgins (1990), and are consistently larger than those of other gadfly petrels with similar plumage that are suspected to occur in the area (*P. arminjoniana*, *P. neglecta*, *P. mollis* and *Lugensa brevirostris*). Measurements (in mm) of the specimen are: culmen 39.1, bill width at base 15.3, tarsus 43.5, total length 400, wing 323, wingspan 1,060, tail 125, and body mass 385 g. It was moulting contour feathers in the head, upper- and underparts. No tail and wing moult was found. Additionally, there was no subcutaneous fat, in accordance with the low body mass despite it being a large bird, based on measurements. The stomach contained old squid beaks, along with two pairs of fish otoliths and a hard plastic piece. The specimen had lost some feathers near the bill base due to decomposition, but the absence of a greyer face and chin clearly resemble *P. m. macroptera*.

Acknowledgements

I thank NEMA (Núcleo de Educação e Monitoramento Ambiental) and their Beach Monitoring Team (Danielle S. Monteiro, Sérgio C. Estima and Rodrigo B. Menezes) for logistical support. Adrián Aspiroz and Christian Savigny provided additional information on Uruguayan and Argentine records. Thanks are also due to Luís Fábio Silveira for providing data on MZUSP specimens.

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